

Birchanger
December 2015



Magazine
Issue 155

WELCOME TO BIRCHANGER



Parting is such sweet sorrow, but we must bear it as best as possible and get over the loss of Kim and Graham, making room in our hearts for the latest addition to club life, Del Clarke. This year a very high calibre of club steward put themselves forward and the committee found themselves in the happy position of choice when looking for someone to captain the Good Ship BSSC. Amongst this competition Del emerged victorious as the almost unanimous choice for new Club Steward. Del had already stepped into the Assistant Steward vacancy position left by Kenny and was proving himself a popular choice both behind the bar and in the kitchen. Del impressed many with his easy management style as well as his ability to further improve the food quality whilst working within the popular menu.

The magazine interviewed Del earlier in the month to get an idea of what the plucky Irish fella had in store once the club was handed over to him. Del's passion lies in the kitchen where he is planning to move to using only fresh ingredients. He doesn't see the menu changing overnight, but hopes that the quality and value will, by bringing his years of catering experience to the fore. Over the coming months Del wants to hear from members with their feedback and critique, so make sure to tell him and the committee what you like and want to see.

Del has also had years of experience working as a publican and so is very much conscious of the importance of keeping good quality and varied ales, ciders and beers as well as top quality but value wines and spirits. The club are looking into getting a bar manager involved who can support him in this area, but don't be surprised to see the happy Irish chappy appear after a long shift in the kitchen to support the bar staff and engage with the public.

If you're curious to experience what Del has in store then one of his first initiatives will be the special Christmas menu that will be on offer. Parties can pre-order their choices that will then be freshly prepared on the day. Starters include: tomato & fresh basil soup with fresh bread; homemade chicken liver & orange brandy pate with warm toast and tempura king prawns with a tangy sweet chilli dip. This can be followed by a classic roast turkey dinner: pigs in blankets, seasonal vegetables, sweet chestnut & pork stuffing, roast potatoes & pan gravy, chicken breast wrapped in bacon stuffed with mature cheddar cheese and served with griddled rosti potatoes or salmon en crouete served with fresh tomato sauce and buttered new potatoes (There's even a veggie option: field mushroom wellington served with creamy mushroom sauce and sautéed potatoes. For dessert you can choose from traditional Christmas pudding served with brandy sauce; homemade treacle tart or apple & mixed berry crumble all served with lashings of custard or ice cream. The menu will be available at £14.95 for 3 courses or £10.95 for 2 courses with children under 12 getting this at half-price. It will be available at lunch or dinner every day except Mondays and Thursdays from the 8th through to the 23rd December. Interested parties should sign up on one of the boards in the club. So why don't we all head down for a celebration at the club this December and show our support for our award-winning club and its new Steward - Del.





a letter from the editor

Dear Birchanger,

Thanks again to all who have been sending in the feedback and critique. It is with a heavy heart that I must this month use this section to admit to my own imperfections in compiling the issue. Many thanks to those people who got in touch to point out my oversights. I genuinely appreciate you taking the time to let me know so I can go some way to making them right. Firstly, for all those who were trying to contact the bus service review, there was an absent 8 in the number that could have thwarted attempts to get in touch. The correct number is 08457 430 430 - many thanks to Anne! Also apologies and thanks to Rosemary Saward whose name I not only misspelt, but whose bowls event I misrepresented. The tournament which took place in Birchanger in fact involved many teams from the local area, and is an annual event organised to raise funds for the British Legion. Birchanger's hosting this year came as a result of their victory in the same tournament last year.

Finally, it was unfortunate that I missed off the Church Christmas Bazaar, due to take place on 28th November. I must apologise for my omission as all the Church happenings up to the end of the year were submitted in August, but the events were all not in chronological order so my simple mind allowed me to overlook this one nestling after the December happenings. I understand the magazine was publicly chided in church, so hopefully karma is now restored but if such omissions occur do drop me a line or pick up the phone.

Tom Granger



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319, Birchanger Lane

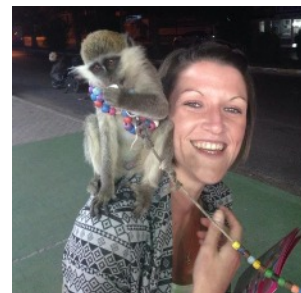
LOCAL HEROES

Peter and Margaret Dawson



This month I want to highlight the efforts of Peter and Margaret Dawson who have been at the centre of the Birchanger community for years. The village relies on the contributions of many people like Peter and Margaret, who despite having earned a well-deserved rest in retirement continue to work hard for our community. One example of their tireless devotion comes when they conduct the often thankless task of clearing and tidying the St-Mary's church graveyard. Keeping this area tidy and free from detritus, this couple (supported by Rosemary Saward) spend a full day each year of back-breaking work collecting up old flowers, and tidying overgrown shrubs etc. All of this rubbish is then taken off site and disposed of by Peter and Margaret. This would be an arduous task for even the most spritely amongst us, so I think it only fair to recognise and thank them both for their efforts.

Supporting Club Social Life



The club relies on a number of volunteers to make it the rich and vibrant place it is today. One lady's efforts over the years must not go unnoticed. Every month she has organised entertainment, come in and compered with ease, bought prizes for raffles, sold tickets, raised funds and rallied a crowd. Claire is a true asset to Birchanger whose drive and determination have seen her push the club and its committee. Alongside her club commitments, she is also a driving force behind the annual fete, not to mention her charitable work, raising funds for St Clare's hospice. Claire has this year stepped down from the committee but continues to support the club and entertainment nights. The village is enriched by people like Claire so once again a big thank you from everyone.

VILLAGE NEWS

Elizabeth Godwin

Refugees in Need of Homes

Along with every other district, Uttlesford is expected to accommodate its share of refugees. With accommodation already at a premium this will not be easy. There may be people who have or could easily convert a space in their property which could be used as a self contained unit for refugees. If you do have space available which could be used in the short term or longer the District Council would like to hear from you on [01799 510510](tel:01799510510), or on uconnect@uttlesford.gov.uk

Other items such as clothes, furniture and bedding may also be required. Details can be found on the Council web page.

Time to Get That Flu Jab

Nobody wants to feel ill, get complications from being ill and find the affects of being ill seem to last the whole winter. Meaning, that nobody actually wants to catch flu, with all its attendant miseries.

It is easy to avoid the whole nasty business, or to at least mitigate some of the worst side effects. The flu jab is available now for not just everyone over 65, but for those with long term conditions, pregnant women, asthmatics and those whose lives would be affected adversely should they fall victim to the virus. It is also available for those in health services and key jobs. In fact a great many people are covered, as well as the older and sicker members of our society.

Just think, you might avoid flu, but also in having the jab, you will not be passing the virus on to others either. You can help yourself to stay well this winter by making sure that you keep your house as warm as possible. A minimum of 18.5 degrees is recommended, if at all possible. With fuel the price it currently is, this is a big ask for some. If you do know someone with difficulties, please keep an eye on them in the worst weather particularly.

Should you start to feel ill, a good primary source of help is your local pharmacist who can help with medicines and advise you. This is a particularly valuable source of help with doctor's time at a premium when flu strikes.

Beating up Granny

Think it cannot happen, but it does. Old people in Uttlesford are frequently victims of an attack perhaps from a frustrated carer, or someone close to them. Little notice of their injuries is taken and even if it was, the victims would be reluctant to tell.

It is hard work being a carer. There is very little respite available, so the attacks are likely to be caused by a sense of frustration, although this may not always be the case.

Carers need our support. Their task is often a lonely one. Friends and neighbours can help by visiting, perhaps offering some granny sitting, shopping in fact just by generally being there. That knowledge alone can make things a lot easier for all concerned.

Christmas Coffee Morning



Come and celebrate the Christmas Season at Moorswood on Tuesday December 8th. There will be plenty of mince pies and cake along with unlimited tea and coffee. Come and join us anytime between 10.30 and noon. Looking forward to seeing you.

Christmas Lights

Overleaf you will find a cut-out voting form to have your say on the Christmas lights. The village light up will have been kicked off on the 27th November with the club light up. If you want to vote then make sure to get your slip into the club or either Liz (Godwin - Moorswood 300 Birchanger Lane / McArthur Old Cedar Stores - 217 Birchanger Lane). Winners will be announced in the club on the 18th December after the Carol Service, so make sure to get in your votes before then.

Life in Birchanger in the 1500s

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water".

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs".

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house.. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed.. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, Dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold".

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old".

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and literally "chew the fat".

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a .."dead ringer".

And that's the truth...Now, whoever said History was dull!



Voting Form - Birchanger Christmas Lights



Please cut out and fill in the below form for vote for your favourite village display. Voting forms can be dropped off at the club or either Liz (Godwin @ Moorswood -300 Birchanger Lane / McArthur Old Cedar Stores - 217 Birchanger Lane) before 17th December

Name: (optional)

Contact: (optional)

Address of preferred house:

What's On ...

December

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	2 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room 10:00 - 16:00  Weathers in watercolour	3 VH- 13:00 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	4 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all 	5 BSSC - Live Act - Hit and Run	6 St.M - Morning Prayers
7 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	8 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood 10:30	9 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room	10 VH- 13:00 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance  Pastel Snow 	11 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all 	12 BSSC - Children's Christmas Party including Father Xmas + raffle from 12:- - 16:00 Evening Live Act - 2FBS	13 St.M - Holy Communion
14 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	15 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	16 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room	17 VH- 13:00 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance	18 VH- 09:30 - SOSA - open to all St.M - 19:00  Service	19 BSSC - Live Act - El Hayes	20 St.M - Christingle Service
21 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	22 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	23 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room	24 VH- 13:00 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance BSSC - Live Act - S Allatoy  	25 St.M - Family Communion Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27 St.M - Holy Communion
28 VH - 09:30 - Birchanger Buddies Mother and Toddler 19:30 Ballroom Dancing	29 VH - 09:30 - Adult Ballet, 15:45 - Junior Ballet	30 VH- 09:30 - Tai Chi 14:00 - Tea Room	31 VH- 13:00 - Line Dancing 20:30 Improvers Belly Dance BSSC - Family Disco			

Professional Art Classes



If you're interested in learning how to paint, Heather Brown runs very reasonable art classes for all levels- for more details call Heather on 815453 or E MAIL heather.highview@googlemail.com

Tea Room At the Village Hall



Every Wednesday

2.00 till 4.00



In aid of Hall maintenance



BIRCHANGER Sports & Social Club

Weekly	Event	When
Saturdays	Meat Draw	1.00pm
Saturdays	Bingo Lottery	Ask bar staff
Mondays	Quiz night	9.00pm
Wednesdays	Steak night	Evenings
Thursdays	Bingo night	08.30pm
Fridays	Bottle Draw	Evenings



BIRCHANGER
Sports & Social Club



Live Entertainment - Great Food - Excellent Bar - Snooker - Darts - Pool – Football - Cricket - Bowls



CHRISTMAS IN THE CLUB

New steward, new entertainments and a brand new Christmas menu: we are planning a Christmas to remember in the club this year. Del and his team will be making a special festive effort this year to greet you and yours into the club. A new entertainments team will also be working with Claire to put on the best the club has had in years. This year's Christmas raffle is set to be bigger and better than ever, so make sure to pick up your tickets from a member of the committee or in the club.

ENTERTAINMENT

5th December - Hit and Run



This dynamic duo has been wowing Birchanger audiences for years. Make sure to come along and hear their legendary act.

12th December - Grand Christmas Draw and 2FBS



What better way to enjoy your evening than to combine the excellent 2FBS with the village's Christmas Draw. Are you going to walk away with a laptop, cash prizes or one of the other fabulous lots on offer?

19th December - El Hayes



Come along and enjoy this live tribute act get Birchanger on the floor!

Christmas Eve - Susan Allatoy



Susan has an amazing voice and a great stage presence, covering the soul sound as well as straight. She has worked over the years with Candy Staton, Incognito, Jamiroquai.

New Year's Eve - Family Disco

Come along and dance the night away on the club's exclusive dance floor, enjoying some of the best value drinks and fun with friends and neighbours.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

21/12 Monday 1900 – 2300 (No Food)
22/12 Tuesday 1900 – 2300 (Food Evening)
23/12 Wednesday 1200 – 1430 1800 – 2300 (Food Lunch/Evening)
24/12 Thursday 1200 – Midnight (No Food)
25/12 Friday 1200 – 1400 (No Food)
26/12 Saturday 1200 – 1700 (with discretion for Steward to close earlier)
27/12 Sunday 1200 – 2230 (Food Lunch)
28/12 Monday 1200 – 1430 1800 – 2300 (No Food)
29/12 Tuesday 1900 – 2300 (Food Evening)
30/12 Wednesday 1200 – 1430 1800 – 2300 (Food Lunch/ Evening)
31/12 Thursday 1200 – 0030 (No Food)
01/01 Friday 1200 – 1700 (No Food) (with discretion for Steward to close earlier)
02/01 Saturday 1200 – 2330 (Food Lunch/ Evening)

Birchanger Sports & Social Club, 229 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger CM23 5QJ
Tel: 01279 813441 email: club@birchanger.com Follow us at: www.birchangerclub.com

Seasonal Advice

Winter Safety



As we approach the season of peace and goodwill and the nights draw in, I should remind everyone of the need for vigilance regarding the safety of our neighbours and our environment.

Lock your doors and windows, even when you are indoors, and if you are going out and returning after dark put some lights on and draw the curtains. Remember to take a torch with you if you are travelling on foot. Tell a neighbour if you are going to be away for any length of time.

Please, please, do not park on the pavement, as walkers may have to go on the road, putting their lives at risk. I have

been giving car numbers to the Police, and will continue to do so. Motorists are also requested to drive SLOWLY through the village, as the number of cars speeding on the lane is a serious concern.

Finally, if you need advice or are worried about any safety matters, give me a ring on 07846 467575.

Alex Stewart



Gardening Gold

So it's the time of year when most of us are sensibly ignoring our gardens in favour of mulled wine, mince pies and indeed anything warm and cosy.

There are, however a few important tasks that we should be aware of to ensure 2016 is a bounteous year for Birchanger gardens.



1) Secure erections

Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place

2) Check your plumbing

Check that greenhouse heaters are working

3) Protect waterworks

Prevent ponds and stand pipes from freezing

4) Seasonal fruity trim

Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls)

5) Reduce unwanted growth

Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding

6) On the pull

Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops

7) Bare moves

Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted

8) First cut is the deepest

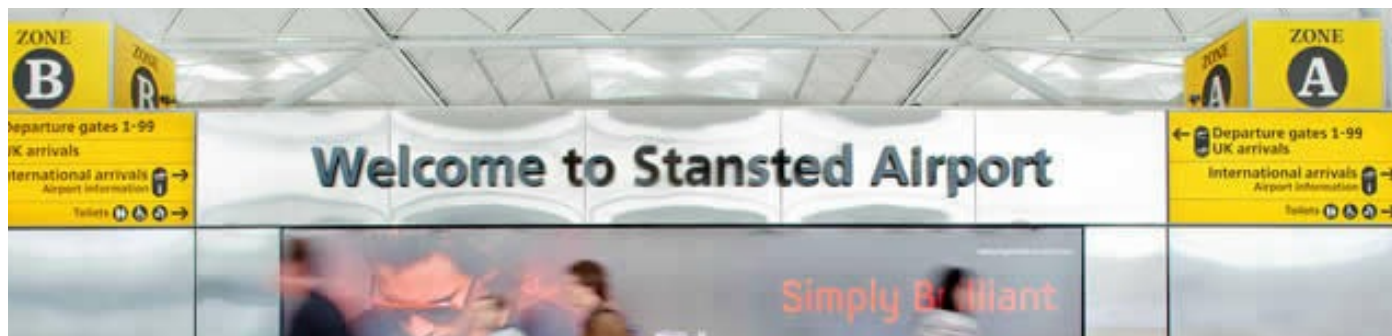
Take hardwood cuttings

9) Smell a rat

Keep rodents away from stored produce

10) (Don't) wet your whistle

Reduce watering of houseplants



Strictly's Anton Du Beke Waltzes through Stansted



STANSTED Airport was on the receiving end of some Strictly star power last month when Strictly's cheesiest grin on legs, Anton du Beke launched a new flight from the Essex airport to Austrian capital Vienna.

The 49-year-old took time off from his arduous routine of developing quips and excuses for his latest Strictly squeeze to come and perform a Viennese waltz alongside other 'stars' such as Radio 3 presenter Katie Derham (pictured left).

Anton certainly wowed the crowds with his 2011 award winning rear of the year, but for those who didn't know their foxtrot from their zulu yankee locally made Viennese swirl buns were also on offer.

New routes are as always a double - edged sword for Birchanger. If we are to have an airport on our doorstep, then it's great if it can serve the places we want to visit. On the other hand however, this will just go to increase the number of flights and sound issues the village has to face. Remember Stop Stansted Expansion has worked tirelessly for years to keep Stansted under control and all-important scrutiny. They rely on donations to keep them going. One option is to buy their popular calendar, which features beautiful local scenes and villages. Head to <http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/calendar.html> for more information.

Traffic Figures Continue to Rise



Stansted Airport achieved its 19th consecutive month of growth as over two million passengers passed through the terminal in October, up 8.6% on the corresponding month last year.

It was the sixth consecutive month passenger numbers exceeded the two million mark, the first time this has happened since 2007. The month also saw the highest ever load factor for any October at Stansted with 88% of all seats occupied on each flight.

The total number of passengers using Stansted in the last year rose to 22.3 million, an increase of 15% over the previous 12 months.

Birchanger All Girls Society

Come along and join us on the last
Wednesday of every Month

Meeting Room in Village Hall
Doors open at 7.30. for 8 – 10 p.m.

Forthcoming meetings:

Saturday 5th December

BAGS Christmas Party for members only.

No normal December meeting

Wednesday 27th January

BAGS AGM - All Birchanger ladies welcome

Tel. for details: Michelle - 814481,
Barbara - 813007, Rosemary - 814678

News from the School

Trash to Cash

Old Clothes Convert to Cash. We all hear just how much our old clothes can be worth, but the recent Bag to School initiative arranged by the PTA raised an amazing £120. These events are usually arranged on a bi annual basis and are a very welcome provider of additional funding for the school.

The next major event will be the Christmas Fair at 2pm on Saturday December 5th in the school.



Children in Need Day

The School Council organized all the events for Children in Need Day. First they decided that it was to be a non uniform day, with School Uniforms swapped for bright yellow clothes and lots of spots. There was a charge for this as the whole idea was to raise as much money as possible for Children In Need.

Fund raising events were held for each class throughout the day, but the highlight for this was the "Hunt for Pudsey" Treasure Hunt. At the time of going to press the amount of money raised had still to be counted.

Sporting Events

Children of all ages have participated in Sporting Events this month and the school is now in line for a Silver Sports Award. Cross Country Teams, which included the youngest children were particularly good, with three teams reaching the finals which are to be held shortly.

Blast From the Past

Checkout the members of the class of 65'. Kindly provided by Cait Goddard, the below pictures show the whole school when it was situated in the old schoolhouse, which has since been transformed into a residence. In the picture you will perhaps notice some familiar village faces, so why not get in touch and tell us who you recognise. Fame and honour await the person who can correctly name the most people! Just drop me an email or note through the door!



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**CALLING ALL CLUB
MEMBERS**

BSSC is run by and for its members.
Throughout the year the committee are
working hard on entertainments, drinks, food
and sports for the members, but we can't
succeed without you. If you have any ideas or
have time to dedicate to sub-committees then
get in touch!

Drop us an email at
club@birchanger.com or speak to
one of our staff



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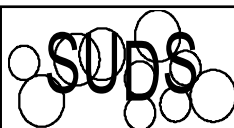
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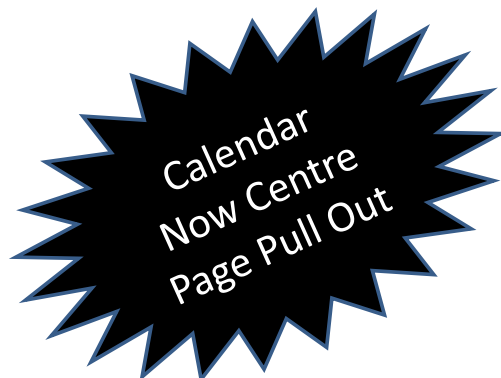
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